

---

---

**INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

---

---

**TO:** MEMBERS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
**FROM:** ROBERT FRANCIOSI, DEPUTY ASSOCIATE SUPT., RESEARCH AND EVALUATION  
**SUBJECT:** PROPOSED CHANGES TO AZ LEARNS FOR 2010  
**DATE:** JANUARY 11, 2010

---

This memo summarizes the actions items regarding the AZ LEARNS school evaluation system proposed for Board approval, and provides impact data. The AZ LEARNS formula needs to be modified due to changes in AIMS testing for 2010. As outlined in the December 2009 meeting, ADE proposes these changes as a temporary fix for this year. ADE intends to propose a greatly revised evaluation system for 2011.

For a longer description of the changes, please refer to my memo of November 20, 2009.

**NO WRITING TESTS FOR GRADES 3, 4, AND 8**

In 2010, no writing tests will be administered in grades 3, 4, and 8. The proposed changes below modify the formula to deal with not having writing scores for these three grades.

**Action Item A: Calculation of points for percent passing and improvement.** If a school does not have enough test scores to be evaluated on a subject, correspondingly greater weight will be given equally to the remaining subjects evaluated.

NOTE: This item has been generalized from the version originally presented in December to cover those cases where a school might have too few students tested to be evaluated in one or more subjects.

**Action Item B: Calculation of percent exceeding for a highly performing or excelling profile.** The state averages and standard deviations used for calculating the z-scores for grades 3, 4, and 8 will be recalculated using 2006 test results, excluding writing.

## IMPACT DATA

The table below compares actual AZ LEARNS results for 2009 to what they would have been if writing was not given in grades 3, 4, and 8 and the proposed rules were applied.

Impact of Proposed Changes		
AZ LEARNS Profiles	Number of Schools Actual 2009	Number of Schools with Proposed Changes
Underperforming	63	77
Performing	458	478
Performing Plus	611	587
Highly Performing	245	246
Excelling	388	377

## NEW MATH TEST

The spring of 2010 will see the introduction of a math test aligned to the state's new math standards. The difficulty of the test could change. The proposed changes below address the issues raised by the new test.

**Action Item C: Individual Student Growth Measure (the Measure of Academic Progress).** Individual student growth on math will not be included in the AZ LEARNS evaluations for 2010.

**Action Item D: Calculation of points for percent passing and improvement.** If the percentage of students passing the AIMS math test averaged over grades 3 through 10 falls below 66 percent, the benchmark parameters used for percent passing and improvement will be reset using the same method used the last time the parameters were set in 2005.

**Action Item E: Calculation of percent exceeding for highly performing or excelling profile.** If the percentage of students passing the AIMS math test averaged over grades 3 through 10 falls below 66 percent, the state averages and standard deviations used for calculating the z-scores will be recalculated using 2006 test results for reading and writing and 2010 results for math.

## IMPACT DATA

The table below compares actual AZ LEARNS results for 2009 to what they would have been if the benchmark parameters were reset to 2010 levels using the method described above.

Impact of Proposed Changes		
AZ LEARNS Profiles	Number of Schools Actual 2009	Number of Schools with Proposed Changes
Underperforming	63	58
Performing	458	453
Performing Plus	611	790
Highly Performing	245	212
Excelling	388	252